

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-19 NIC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

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R 280823Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7105

INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CONFIDENTIAL TOKYO 12588

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TW, CH, JA, US

SUBJ: EFFECTS OF US' PRC INITIATIVES ON JAPAN'S CHINA POLIC

RF: TAIPEI 5801

1. OUR UNDERSTANDING OF YOSHIDA'S POSITION AND RELATIONSHIPS WITHIN FONOFF LEADS US TO BELIEVE THAT HIS REMARKS (REFTEL) WERE NOT OFFICIALLY AUTHORIZED PROBE OF USG INTENTIONS TOWARD CHINA AND TAIWAN. HE HAS MADE SIMILAR REMARKS TO TAIPEI AND TOKYO EMBOFFS OVER PAS THREE YEARS. ON OTHER HAND, POINT OF VIEW HE EXPRESSED IS BY NO MEANS UNCOMMON AMONG THOUGHTFUL AND INFORMED JAPANESE OBSERVERS, AND WHILE OTHER FONOFF OFFICIALS HAVE NOT RECENTLY VOICED SUCH CONCERNS TO US, WE HAVE IMPRESSION OF RESIDUAL APPREHENSION WITHIN GOJ THAT USG COULD MAKE SIGNIFICANT POLICY SHIFT ON CHINA WITHOUT PROVIDING GOJ WITH MUCH PRIOR NOTICE.

2. IT IS AXIOMATIC, AS YOSHIDA POINTS OUT, THAT PACE OF DEVELOPMENTS IN US-PRC RELATIONS AFFECTS JAPAN'S CONFIDENTIAL

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POLICY TOWARD CHINA AND, INDEED, TOWARD ALL OF EAST

ASEA. THIS IS ESPECIALLY TRUE FOR ISSUES INVOLVING
JAPAN'S SECURITY. THEREFORE, ANY SUDDEN BASIC CHANGE
IN US RELATIONS WITH TAIWAN AND CHINA WOULD BE GRAVELY
UNSETTLING TO GOJ AND
COULD DESTROY DELICATE BALANCE
WHICH GOJ IS ATTEMPTING TO MAINTAIN DOMESTICALLY
BETWEEN PRO-TAIWAN HARDLINERS AND THOSE WHO WOULD PISH
JAPAN INTO SWIFT AND INDISCRIMINATE RELATIONSHIP WITH
PEKING. PRESERVATION OF DOMESTIC BALANCE IS ESSENTIAL

UNDERPINNING FOR SECOND BALANCE, I.E., FRIENDLY BUT
CIRCUMSPECT APPROACH IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH PEKING.

3. HAVING NOTED IMPORTANCE OF OUR CHINA POLICY TO JAPAN'S
VIEWS ON SECURITY, WE WOULD DRAW DISTINCTION WITH RESPECT
TO MATTERS OF LESSER IMPORT -- CULTURAL EXCHANGE, TRADE,
CIVIL AVIATION, ETC. IN THESE AREAS, JAPAN'S RELATIONSHIP
WITH CHINA IS TAKING ON DEGREE OF MOMENTUM AND INDE-
PENDENCE, WITH RESULT THAT IN THIS LIMITED SENSE, GOJ
POLICY TOWARD PRC WILL IN FUTURE BE INCREASINGLY LESS
AFFECTED BY USG POLICY THAN HERETOFORE.

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